(b) if so, the schedule of completion;

(c) the Indian Railways are being converted from meter gauge to broad gauge but why has the railway line from Lumding to Agartala made a meter gauge;

(d) the reasons for not providing broad gauge instead; and

(e) whether there was a demand for railway coach factory in Bongaigaon, Assam and by when is it being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target for completion of the project is March 2013.

(c) and (d) The existing rail network beyond Lumding Southward is on Meter Gauge for which gauge conversion has been taken up. The line from Kumarghat to Agartala has been constructed to Broad Gauge standards but laid with meter gauge as the connecting Lumding-Badarpur-Kumarghat line is on meter gauge. The line will be converted to Broad Gauge once gauge conversion of Lumding-Badarpur-Kumarghat is completed.

(e) Demands for establishing railway coach factory are received from different zones. However, there is no proposal at present to set up a Rail Coach Factory in the region.

Demands for rail projects from North Gujarat

240. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various demands for North Gujarat pending with the Railway Ministry;

(b) whether Ministry respond to the demand of reducing running hours of S.J. Rajdhani Express in between Ahmedabad-New Delhi;

(c) what is the status of direct train from Patan in North Gujarat to Mumbai; and

(d) what is the status of direct train from Palanpur to Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Details of each and every demand is not maintained. However, a request has been received from the State Government of Gujarat some time back containing some of the railway projects of North Gujarat. The details are as under:

1. Harij-Mahsana-Radhanpur: Survey completed and proposed new line not taken up.

2. Gauge conversion of Mahsana-Taranga Hill with extension to Ambaji: Survey completed and proposal not taken up.

3. Gauge conversion between Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma with extension to Ambaji: Survey taken up for gauge conversion between Himmatnagar-Khedbrahma with extension to Abu Road.

(b) Speeding up of passenger carrying trains is an ongoing exercise over Indian Railways. Speeding up of 2957/2958 New Delhi-Ahmedabad Rajdhani Express is not feasible at present.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to run direct train from Patan and Palanpur to Mumbai owing to resource and terminal constrains.

Conversion of trains into super fast train

241. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for converting a train into super fast trains;

(b) whether there has been significant reduction in the time taken to reach the destination by super fast trains after conversion;

(c) if so, on an average the percentage of reduction; and

(d) the additional cost passengers in different classes have to bear after conversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Trains whose average speed on the entire run in both directions is minimum 55 kmph on broad gauge and 45 kmph on metre gauge are designated as superfast trains.

(b) and (c) The average percentage reduction in the time taken varies from about 2% to 6% for the trains converted to superfast during the last two years.

(d) The superfast surcharge is Rs. 8/- for second class, Rs. 20 for sleeper class, Rs. 30 for A.C. Chair Car/first class/A.C. 3-tier/A.C. 2-tier, Rs. 50 for A.C. first class, Rs. 150/- for second class monthly season tickets, Rs. 450 for second class quarterly season tickets, Rs. 450 for first class monthly season tickets and Rs. 1350/- for first class quarterly season tickets. Superfast surcharge is, however, not levied on season ticket holders travelling by those superfast trains whose total journey is less than 325 kms.

Rail coach factory in Kerala

242. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made, so far, for setting up of the proposed railway coach factory in the State of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Requisite approval for the setting up of a Rail Coach Factory at Kerala, is under process.

New railway line between Aligarh and Kasganj

243. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:
SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: